

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for Seagrass Restoration in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS).

Federal and state natural resource trustee agencies have assessed the anticipated short and long-term environmental and socioeconomic effects related to the implementation of seagrass restoration and seagrass injury prevention projects in the FKNMS. As this assessment focuses on future regional seagrass restoration and injury prevention activities, the discussion of potential positive and negative impacts on the biological, social, and economic environments is not site or case specific; instead, it is intended to be general in scope. The goal of this FPEIS is to describe a range of seagrass restoration options, used for both primary and compensatory restoration projects, and seagrass injury prevention actions that potentially may be implemented in the FKNMS. This document reflects the work of the seagrass restoration workgroup made up of federal and state trustees, which include the U. S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It also reflects the input and comments that were received during informal and formal scoping processes, and the public comment period associated with the draft PEIS.

Additional copies of the FPEIS may be obtained from Harriet Sopher, National Marine Sanctuary Program, 1305 East West Highway, N/ORM4 Station 11653, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-3125 ext 109). The document is also accessible through the Damage Assessment and Restoration website at [www.darp.noaa.gov](http://www.darp.noaa.gov) and the National Marine Sanctuary Program website at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/library.html>.

Comments or questions on the FPEIS submitted during the 30-day public comment period must be received by October 12, 2004. Written comments should be submitted by mail to Harriet Sopher at the above address or faxed to 301-713-0404. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to [harriet.sopher@noaa.gov](mailto:harriet.sopher@noaa.gov); include in the comment subject line the following FPEIS identifier: Seagrass Restoration FPEIS Comment. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Strategic Planning Office (PPI/SP), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to [nepa.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:nepa.comments@noaa.gov).

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of the issuance of the FPEIS. However, comments received will be reviewed and considered for their impact on the issuance of a record of decision (ROD). The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Kennedy  
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure